

state governments in responding quickly and efficiently during an emergency or terrorist attack.

Madam Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in commending Business Executives for National Security for their commitment in support of our national security interests.

SALUTING PHIL COHEN, "MR. BROOKLYN CENTER," ON A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special government, business and civic leader in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Phil Cohen.

Phil's long career in public service has been guided by former Vice President Hubert Humphrey's fundamental principle: "The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

Phil has truly lived up to those lofty aspirations. I want to thank Phil Cohen for his many decades of public service to the people of our area—and wish him a happy 80th birthday.

Phil Cohen, "Mr. Brooklyn Center," is one of a kind—a friend to all and a dynamic whirlwind of economic, civic and charitable activity. His personal motto is: "It's important for each generation to leave society in a better state than they found it." Madam Speaker, Phil Cohen has done that and then some.

He is truly an inspiration. The Philip Q. Cohen Room at the Brooklyn Center Community Center attests to the magnitude of his giving.

There are many reasons Phil is known as "Mr. Brooklyn Center." From 1960 to 1990, at various times he served as Mayor and on the City Council and School Board. He has held leadership positions with the Metropolitan Council, the League of Minnesota Cities and many more community organizations.

There is no cause or community organization, from the Lions and Rotary to the North Metro Mayors Association, Chamber of Commerce and Babe Ruth Baseball, which has not been touched by his energy and his heart. Phil helped create the Brooklyn Center Crime Prevention Association and the Brooklyn Center Charitable Foundation.

Whether it is helping the Brooklyn Center Police Department obtain life-saving equipment; rescuing the Brooklyn Center High School Band program, which includes many students from disadvantaged families; helping local youth baseball; making every imaginable non-profit and civic group more viable and effective; mentoring a young person in leadership and public service; or just being there for someone in need, Phil Cohen has done it all.

I have personally long relied on Phil's wise counsel. As a young Congressman arriving in Washington, I appreciated Phil's guidance on the ways of our Nation's Capitol. Phil was always there to counsel. As Legislative Assistant to former U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger for a decade, Phil shared his expertise with

me, and my constituents have been the beneficiaries.

Madam Speaker, I want to wish Phil Cohen a most joyous 80th birthday for his inexhaustible spirit of public service and all the good he has done for the people of Brooklyn Center. Phil truly is "Mr. Brooklyn Center."

HONORING YVONNE GRAHAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Brooklyn's Deputy Borough President, Yvonne Graham who has been a pioneer in the area of public health for over 20 years. As Brooklyn's Deputy Borough President, Ms. Graham oversees health care policy and all human services for the borough president. Her vision was critical to the 2005 founding of Brooklyn's first Center on Health Disparities, which works to reduce cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, infant mortality, asthma, and diabetes among minority communities. This center is part of an innovative partnership with the SUNY Downstate Medical Center and the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health.

In an effort to increase the number of women in leadership positions in government, business, and industry. Ms. Graham spearheaded the Women's Leadership Initiative, a partnership between academic institutions, government agencies, community-based organizations, and the private sector that brings women together for dialogue and networking.

Born and raised in Jamaica, West Indies, she moved to New York in 1979 working as a registered nurse in the emergency room of Brookdale Hospital. She holds a bachelor's degree in health administration and community health from St. Joseph's College and a master's degree in public health from Hunter College. In addition, she completed the Executive Program in business administration at Columbia University School of Business and an honorary doctor of law degree conferred on her by St. Joseph's College, her alma mater.

Yvonne Graham has written and published many professional articles and has recently co-authored a textbook that serves as a seminal guide to the operations and management of community-based health organizations and their role in improving health outcomes.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors: YWCA's Women of Distinction Award; National Association of Black Social Workers' Public Citizen of the Year Award; the Frederick Douglass Medal of Honor awarded by the New York State Governor to distinguished Africans-Americans; the American Lung Association's Distinguished Award for Leadership, Creativity, and Caring in Promotion of Community Health; and the Harriet Tubman Award.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Graham's record of public service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication and today we should recognize this outstanding woman.

EMILY BECKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Emily Becker of Blue Springs, Missouri. Emily is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Emily has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Emily has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Emily Becker for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO NAME THE NEW CENSUS BUREAU HEADQUARTERS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill with my colleagues Mr. WYNN, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. HOLMES NORTON, Mr. TOM DAVIS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. COHEN to name the new Census Bureau Headquarters building for Founding Father, Thomas Jefferson. The Founding Fathers' recognition of the need for fully representative government which put power in the hands of the people was unprecedented at the time of the Constitution's adoption. The modern decennial census is a uniquely American invention. Naming the Census Bureau Headquarters for Thomas Jefferson, who oversaw the first national census, underscores this historic contribution.

ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF
CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the Democratic majority's commitment to ethics reform. In the first 100 hours of this Congress, we adopted vital new rules ushering in a new era of openness and fiscal responsibility. We then reformed lobbying practices, and this year many of us voluntarily will reduce and disclose our earmark requests. To continue this commitment to transparency in government, I am pleased to support H. Res. 895 and the creation of an independent, bipartisan Office of Congressional Ethics.